

Remarks

Claims 2-5, 7 and 10-12 are pending in the present application, claims 10-12 having been added and claims 1 and 6 having been cancelled by this amendment. The examiner is requested to hold claims 8 and 9 in abeyance pending the filing of one or more divisional applications.

Applicants traverse the objections to the disclosure. The use of language at pages 1-4 that is consistent with the claim language is not believed to be improper and, in fact, is in accordance with accepted practice. See 37 CFR §1.73 and MPEP 608.01(d).

Applicants traverse the rejection of claim 7 as indefinite. This claim has been amended to delete the recitation of "the second strength element."

Applicants traverse the rejection of claims 1-4 as anticipated by Japanese Patent 58-37337 and the rejection of claim 5 as obvious over such Japanese patent. As noted above, claim 1 has been canceled by this amendment. In addition, the dependencies of claims 2-5 have been changed so that such claims are now dependent directly or indirectly upon added claim 12.

Applicants traverse the rejection of claim 6 as obvious over JP-58 037337 in view of Cauvin. Claim 6 has been canceled in favor of added claim 10. The following recitations of claim 10 are not disclosed or suggested by JP-58 037337 or Cauvin:

- the windows of the first and second folded tabs of the second rigid strength member are adjacent to the flat basis of said second strength member,

- and two parallel folded tongues, belonging to the same metal plates as the flat basis and the first and second tabs, said folded tongues being arranged in correspondence to

the two windows and extending from said flat basis away from the first strength member.

The latter recitation enables ready manufacture of the second strength member at a low cost by a manufacturing process which includes only cutting and folding steps.

Applicants traverse the rejection of claim 7 as obvious over JP 58 037337 in a view of Rau and Knurek et al.

The following recitations of amended claim 7 are not disclosed or suggested by JP 58 037337 :

- the motor bracket interconnecting the first strength member (5 in JP- 58 037337) of the antivibration mount and the vehicle motor;

- the planar basis of the first strength member (5 in JP-58 037337) extending in an oblique direction and being interposed between the motor bracket and the elastomer body;

- two parallel lugs which are integral with the planar basis of the first strength member and which extend along the main vibration direction on each side of said planar basis and which are fixed to the motor bracket, said lugs being extended by folding tabs which are bent below the motor bracket and which fold said motor bracket; and

- the flat basis of the folding metal plates of the second rigid strength member (4 in JP-58 037337) being fastened to the vehicle chassis.

In addition, Rau discloses an antivibration mount in which the planar basis 20 of the first strength member extends in an oblique direction and is secured to the vehicle motor, whereas the flat basis 40 of the second strength member is parallel to planar basis 20 and is secured to the vehicle chassis.

Knurek et al. disclose in figures 5 and 6 an antivibration mount including rigid strength members 22, 26 interconnected by an elastomer body 20. If one were to assume

that the rigid strength member 22 corresponds to the claimed first strength member, secured to the vehicle motor, and the strength member 26 of Knurek et al. corresponds to the claimed second strength member, then one must conclude that Knurek et al. do not disclose any motor bracket as a separate part interconnecting the first strength member to the vehicle motor.

Further, Knurek et al. do not disclose two parallel lugs which are integral with the planar basis of the first strength member (22 in Knurek et al.) and which are fixed to the motor bracket, wherein the lugs are extended by folded tabs which are bent below the motor bracket and which hold the motor bracket.

Regarding this latter difference between the claimed invention and Knurek et al., even if one supposes that the unnumbered part above strength member 26 in figure 6 of Knurek et al. is integral with said strength member 26, then this unnumbered part could not constitute one of the claimed lugs, since the strength member 26 of Knurek et al. is fastened to the vehicle chassis.

Finally, it should also be noted that the structure of the antivibration mount disclosed by Knurek et al. is so specific that it would not have been apparent to a person skilled in the art to combine the features thereof with the teachings of JP-58 037337 and Rau.

Still further, none of the cited prior art discloses or suggests the subject matter of added claims 11 and 12 and claims 2-5 now dependent upon claim 12. It is therefore submitted that claims 11, 12, 2-5 are also patentable.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

The sentences beginning at line 25 through 30 at page 9 has been amended as follows:

Said lugs also include respectively tabs T1 which project from the respective portions P1, substantially perpendicular to respective sides of the elongate body of the motor bracket 7. Said tabs T1 are bent at their respective free ends just below the elongate body of the motor bracket 7 in order to hold it.

In the claims:

Claims 1 and 6 have been cancelled.

2. (Amended) Antivibration mount as claimed in claim \pm 12, in which the second ~~rigid strength member is a~~ metal plate which is substantially U-shaped, with a basis and two integral lateral wings which constitute the tabs.

3. (Amended) Antivibration mount as claimed in claim \pm 12, in which the fingers are integral with the first ~~strength member~~ metal plate.

4. (Amended) Antivibration mount as claimed in claim \pm 12, in which elastomeric stops are secured to one element chosen from the group consisting in said first ~~rigid strength member~~ metal plate and said second ~~rigid strength member~~ metal plate, said stops cooperating with counter-abutment means for limiting relative movements of the first and second ~~strength members~~ metal plates away from each other.

5. (Amended) Antivibration mount as claimed in claim 4, in which said stops are molded on the tabs of the second ~~strength member~~ metal plate and are oriented towards the first ~~strength member~~ metal plate so as to cooperate therewith.

7. (Amended) Mechanical assembly comprising:

- a vehicle motor;
- a vehicle chassis;
- an antivibration mount to damp vibration between said motor and said chassis, essentially in a main vibration direction, said antivibration mount comprising first and second rigid strength members {suitable for securing respectively to the vehicle motor and the vehicle chassis}, an elastomer body interconnecting the two rigid strength members,

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- a motor bracket interconnecting the first strength member of the antivibration mount and the vehicle motor;

wherein the first strength member includes a folded metal plate having:

- a planar basis which extends in an oblique direction and which is interposed between the motor bracket and the elastomer body,

- first and second legs which extend substantially parallel to the main vibration direction from said planar basis, toward the second strength member, said first and second legs being extended respectively by first and second fingers which are substantially perpendicular to the main vibration direction and which extend outwards in opposite directions,

- two parallel lugs which are integral with said planar basis and which extend along the main vibration direction on each side of said basis said two lugs being fixed

to the motor bracket and being extended by two folded tabs which are bent below the motor bracket for holding said motor bracket,

wherein the second rigid strength member includes a folded metal plate having:

- a flat basis which is parallel to the planar basis of the first strength member,

- and first and second folded tabs which extend from said flat basis ~~are~~ substantially perpendicular to said fingers and which are pierced by windows, said two fingers of the first rigid strength member passing through said windows respectively for limiting movements of the first and second strength members away from each other;.

~~— a motor bracket interconnecting the first strength member of the antivibration mount and the vehicle motor;~~

~~— wherein the first strength member includes a planar basis which extends in an oblique direction and which is interposed between the motor bracket and the elastomer body, said planar basis being extended by two parallel integral lugs which extend along the main vibration direction on each side of said basis and which are fixed to the motor bracket,~~

~~— and wherein the second strength element includes a planar basis which is fastened in contact with the vehicle chassis and which is substantially parallel to said first strength member.~~